



Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Room 2700 Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

March 5, 2015

Alice Reitz  
Co-president, American Association of University Women Connecticut  
18 Lawson Drive  
Madison, CT 06443

Dear Senators Bye and Kane and Representatives Walker and Ziobron,

I am writing on behalf of 12 Connecticut Branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), 3 AAUW Student Organizations, 28 College and University Partners, and more than 1,000 Connecticut members to strongly urge our State Government to fully fund the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW). Through leadership, advocacy, education, public outreach and the coordination of organizations that advance women, PCSW functions as an indispensable asset to the women of Connecticut. On a local level, AAUW CT regards PCSW as a strong partner in achieving our goals of education and equity for girls and women. On a national level, AAUW regards PCSW as a model for all states.

It is said that when you help a woman, you help a family to prosper and family by family you build a strong society. Examples of how PCSW benefits our state include:

- **Advocating pay equity for women.**
- **Providing opportunity and developing resources to help girls and women successfully enter and remain in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.**
- **Facilitating the successful growth of women-owned and women-managed business to provide jobs for Connecticut citizens.**
- **Increasing the numbers and expanding the roles of women in government.**

It is AAUW CT's sincere hope and recommendation that the Appropriations Committee will fully fund PCSW thereby supporting its role in advancing the important contributions that women make to Connecticut.

Respectfully,

Alice Reitz  
Co-president, American Association of University Women Connecticut